

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /084 W

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P R 211648Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8236

INFO AMCONSUL BELIZE

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4057

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GT, UK, NU

SUBJECT: SOMOZA SUPPORTS GUATEMALA ON BELIZE

1. IN SPEECH DEDICATING OPENING OF NEW POWER PLANT IN MADRIZ
OCTOBER 18, PRESIDENT SOMOZA WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO
SUPPORT GUATEMALA'S CLAIM TO BELIZE. HE SAID, "WE ARE OPEN-
MINDED PEOPLE - A PEOPLE WHO CAN SHOUT TO THE FOUR WINDS WHAT WE
FEEL, A PEOPLE WHO HAVE KNOWN HOW TO ESTABLISH OUR INDEPENDENCE,
WHO HAVE CLIPPED THE MANE OF THE BRITISH LION ON THE ATLANTIC
COAST, AND A PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO BACK GUATEMALA SO THAT
THEY DON'T TAKE BELIZE AWAY FROM IT."

2. COMMENT: SECGEN CASTILLO OF THE FONOFF HAS TOLD US THAT
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT HE CAN RECALL THAT ANY NICARAGUAN CHIEF
OF STATE HAS MADE SUCH A DEFINITIVE, PERSONAL STATEMENT IN SUP-

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PORT OF GUATEMALA IN THE BELIZE DISPUTE.
PRESIDENT SOMOZA HAS IN THE PAST ASSIDUOUSLY AVOIDED BECOMING

IDENTIFIED WITH ONE SIDE OF AN INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE INVOLVING TWO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. THE REASONS FOR THE SHIFT TO A MORE PARTISAN POLICY NOW ARE OBVIOUSLY KEYED TO THE HEATING UP OF THE BELIZE PROBLEM AND PROBABLY GUATEMALAN IMPORTUNING FOR A STATEMENT OF NICARAGUAN SOLIDARITY PRIOR TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENTS' MEETING LATER THIS MONTH. ALSO INVOLVED IN THE EQUATION ARE:
A) SOMOZA'S GROWING CONVICTION THAT GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD IS THE ONLY CENTRAL AMERICAN PRESIDENT WORTHY OF HIS RESPECT, B) NICARAGUA'S CONTINUING DESIRE TO AVOID BEING POLITICALLY ISOLATED IN THE FACE OF WHAT IT FEELS IS AN INTERNATIONAL LEFTIST-COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE SOMOZA REGIME, AND C) NICARAGUA'S IRRITATION WITH THE UK FIRST FOR CANCELING PRINCE PHILLIP'S TRIP EARLIER THIS YEAR AND MORE RECENTLY FOR ANNOUNCING THE TERMINATION OF ITS RESIDENT EMBASSY HERE.

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